

Cabinet Order No 475

Adopted on 7 July 2021

Regarding the State research programme

“Letonika — Fostering a Latvian and European Society”

1. In accordance with the Law of Scientific Activity Section 13, Paragraph two, Clause 3, to approve the State research programme “Letonika — Fostering a Latvian and European Society” (hereinafter referred to as — the programme).

2. To assign the Ministry of Education and Science as the responsible institution for the implementation of the programme.

3. The total funding of the programme shall be 6 200 000 euro for the period of 2021-2024. The programme shall be financed from the funds of the State budget programme 05.00.00 “Science” of the Ministry of Education and Science, sub-programme 05.12.00 “State research programmes”.

4. The overarching goal of the programme — to establish inclusive Latvian and European knowledge society in Latvia, the foundation of which are democratic values, Latvian language and culture.

5. The goal of the programme — to create new knowledge and solutions to facilitate the sustainable development of the Latvian society and State. It includes the research of language, history, culture, identity of Latvians and ethnic minorities, research of education transformation opportunities, as well as the increase of the required human capital.

6. In order to reach the programme’s goal, the following tasks are defined:

6.1 Latvian history, identity of Latvians and ethnic minorities:

6.1.1 the object of the task is research of Latvian history and acquisition of knowledge for updating the conceptual framework of the identity of Latvians, including diaspora, and minorities. This task includes the following research directions: (a) historical research of different forms of identity and collective affiliation (e.g. Latvian, national, democratic, local, European, cultural), and analysis of their interaction; (b) research of history of Latvia and Latvians; examination of ideas, religious, philosophic and legal views, as well as ideology history in the context of history of Europe and cultural space; (c) research of history of Latvia and cultural heritage, including intangible cultural heritage, archaeology, traditional culture (folklore) and ethnology from the historic and modern aspect;

6.1.2 The object of the task is research of National Resistance history (1940-1991), including armed and non-violent resistance, the damage caused by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

(USSR), the Third National Awakening Movement and Latvia's independence, democratic state system and reconstruction in the in context of the national continuity, strengthening it in the collective memory and the national strategic communication;

6.2 education transformation. The object of this task is research of blended learning models and development of innovative solutions for digital transformation of learning process rooted in the current good practices. This task includes the following research directions: (a) Innovative research-based and inclusive solutions for education, including the development of appropriate didactics and methodologies for all education levels (areas of priority: science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in grades 1-6, and history in grades 10-12) and their approbation in school practice; (b) current and future competences, as well as the educational models, curricula and teaching materials suitable for their development; (c) human-centered learning and knowledge society; (d) opportunities and risks of the digital transformation in education; (e) human resources in education and professional development requirements, including personalized professional development solutions, as well as recommendations for education policy makers;

6.3 demography and migration. The object of this task is research of modern demographic and migration processes. This task includes the following research directions: (a) analysis of modern demographic and migration processes and their local and international legal aspects, effective management; (b) stimulating re-emigration, migration issues of talented professionals, including labour outflow, inflow, retention, and strengthening diaspora cooperation networks, including in the fields of culture, science, high technology and creative industries; (c) integration of newcomers and an inclusive society;

6.4 innovative and inclusive governance. The objects of this task are threats to democracy and stability of the country. This task includes the following research directions: (a) solutions to promote public participation in democratic processes, including elections and innovative forms of participation at national and local level (e.g. participatory budgeting, electronic petitions, municipal referendums); (b) public involvement in policy-making and implementation, resilience to different types of threats; (c) trust in institutions; (d) the role of strategic communication in governance;

6.5 development of the Latvian language in the 21st century and its national role:

6.5.1 the object of the task is research of the development and use of contemporary Latvian language. This task includes the research of contemporary Latvian language with statistical, visualization and corpus linguistic methods, as well as the application of new linguistic methods and theories (e.g. applied linguistics, cognitive linguistics, experimental linguistics, lexical functional grammar) and development of new terms in Latvian linguistics in the following research directions: (a) development trends of the Latvian literary or standard language, research on language ideology and language standardization; (b) monitoring of the linguistic habits, attitudes and beliefs of the Latvian population in various communication situations, based on modern sociolinguistic theories and methods, modern and informal sources (social media, colloquial language and other sources); (c) children's language learning, children and young people's

language skills and use in educational institutions and diaspora; (d) virtual communication and use of the Latvian language in social media; (e) semantic and grammatical aspects of Latvian language vocabulary; (f) development of scientific principles of Latvian language terminology and practical terminology as a part of scientific activity;

6.5.2 the object of the task is research of contemporary Latvian language system in the context of static and dynamic language processes and the development of language technologies. This task includes the development of new linguistic directions with statistical, visualization and corpus linguistic methods in the following research directions: (a) development of digital infrastructure for language research: creation of lexical, phonetic and acoustic resources of the Latvian language in the form of digital, machine-readable on-line data, including development of transcribed speech corpora, ensuring their integration into European language resource repositories; (b) acoustic and auditory (perception) research of the Latvian language sound system; (c) semantic pragmatic research of Latvian grammar units and their variants; (d) research of the Latvian language of deaf signs; (e) speech recognition and voice synthesis technologies; (f) language technology solutions for people with disabilities (e.g. automatic subtitling, voice commands);

6.6 Diversity of the Latvian linguistics:

6.6.1 the object of the task is development of the regional and historical peculiarities of the Latvian linguistic environment. This task includes the research of contemporary Latvian language with statistical, visualization and corpus linguistic methods, as well as the development of new linguistic directions in the following research directions: (a) research in the field of translation studies, contact linguistics and area linguistics, competitiveness of the Latvian language in the situation of contact languages, European and world multilingual context; (b) research of Latvian dialects, in particular research of lexical and grammatical dialects, as well as sociolinguistic view of modern dialects, their viability and transformation under the influence of extralinguistic factors, based on field research and scientific description of digital repository of dialect materials; development of e-tools and digital lexicographical sources: continuation of the Latvian language dialect atlas, dialect dictionaries and the linguistic part of the Latgalian written spelling tool to form the basis for the inclusion of dialect descriptions in the European Language Atlas and the development of a digital map of Latvian dialects; (c) improvement of the place name system and local usage traditions in the regions, the database of Latvian linguistic and historical place names; (d) modernization and additions to the historical dictionary of the Latvian language and the corpus of ancient texts of the Latvian language; (e) examination of the history and modern situation of the Latgalian written language, improvement of the Modern Latgalian written language corpus (MuLA), development of language technologies for the Latgalian written language;

6.6.2 the object of the task is development of the Livonian language, language acquisition, cooperation and reproduction of researchers. This task includes the following research directions: (a) research base and digitization of the Livonian language — to create a widely used modern source of Livonian lexicography, as well as to supplement the Livonian language corpus and other databases in order to provide opportunities for language use and acquisition; (b) a program for the involvement of the Livonian language speakers (language experts), within which Livonian

language speakers provide research and advisory support, maintenance of the language environment, availability of the Livonian language and maintenance and development of language skills.

7. For the programme implementation, to determine the following joint (horizontal) tasks:

7.1 to form and develop interdisciplinary and inclusive internationally competitive scientific teams which use research methods and technologies that are recognized among the world's scientists in their scientific activity;

7.2 to ensure the impact of the research process and research results on the following target groups:

7.2.1 research community — by developing the resources needed for research and the interdisciplinary competitive teams of scientists who use world-renowned research methods and technologies in their scientific activities, as well as by involving young scientists in research;

7.2.2 learners (at all levels) in the educational process — by developing digital learning content and innovative pedagogical methods and providing internships and job opportunities, as well as the use of project scientific results in general education and higher education learning processes;

7.2.3 sectoral policy makers and implementers — by cooperating with policy makers during the project development and by proactively making changes in policy;

7.2.4 economic sectors competent for the purpose of the project (including publishing, mass media and ICT sectors) — by cooperating with the organizations and specialists of the relevant economic sectors;

7.2.5 society as a whole — by ensuring knowledge transfer and raising awareness of the role and contribution of research to society, fostering involvement in the research process (e.g. through citizen science initiatives) and developing and disseminating resources useful to society;

7.3 to develop the innovative solutions and promote their broader use;

7.4 to ensure public access to research results, including by providing open access to scientific publications and depositing newly acquired research data in research data repositories in accordance with the FAIR principles — findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable;

7.5. to ensure the transfer of knowledge created in the project by involving the public and promoting its understanding of the role and contribution of research in solving issues of public importance, including by preparing informative popular science articles on the conducted research, its results and benefits to the public;

7.6 to identify previous research, tools and databases from other institutions and other countries.

8. To set the following results to achieve during the programme implementation:

8.1 developed or adapted innovative tools and solutions meeting the needs of the end-user target groups;

8.2 promoted changes in the policy (e.g. by consulting the sectoral policy makers, preparing recommendations and guidelines);

8.3 established interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary (with partners outside the academic environment) consortia, involvement in international cooperation networks and consortia, project proposals in the European Union and other international programs;

8.4 developed human capital, involving young and diaspora scientists in research, providing internship and work opportunities for students and applicants for doctoral degrees, as well as developing master's and doctoral study modules related to the programme;

8.5 scientific monographs and original scientific articles in the journals or collections of conference papers included in Web of Science or SCOPUS (A or B) databases;

8.6 informative popular science articles on the conducted research on different audiences, its results and benefits to the public

A. K. Kariņš, Prime Minister

A. Muižniece, Minister of Education and Science